

Comstock Connect

February 2024 Newsletter

Township Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday
8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Friday
8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Township Board

Supervisor
Randy Thompson

Clerk
Nicole Beauchamp

Treasurer
Clyde "Bub" Sherwood

Trustees
Jerry Amos
Terry McIver
Jason Knight
Bob Pratt

Superintendent
Scott Hess

Transfer Station

Winter Hours
November 1-March 31

Thursday
11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Saturday
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.



Happy February! A lot is happening this month, the first of three elections is on February 27th, it's time to start thinking about Curbside Pickup, the Fire and Rescue Department is offering free Smoke Detectors, and much more. Stay up to date with this newsletters articles on:

- A reminder to register to vote ahead of the 2024 elections (Page 2)
- Information about voting in the February 27th election (Page 2)
- Important Winter Property Tax information (Page 2)
- Spring 2024 Curbside Pickup dates and policies (Page 3)
- February meetings and other important dates (Page 3)
- Comstock Parks and Recreation News! (Page 4)
- An open position on the Comstock Center DDA Board (Page 5)
- Fun family-friendly events from the Library (Page 6)
- Free Smoke alarms for Comstock Residents(Page 7)
- Ways to vote in the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary (Page 8)
- How to connect with your Township Government (Page 9)

Messages from the Township

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Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor

[\(269\) 381-2360 ext. 126](tel:(269)381-2360)

supervisor@comstockmi.gov



We're always very excited to hear people are eager to take advantage of Curbside Pickup. However, we know folks have questions. FAQ:

I want to dispose of items you can't accept during curbside, is there a place that can dispose of them?:

- Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center, located at 1301 Lamont Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49048, is able to take items we cannot. They have more information online: <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh/hhw/>
- Consumers Concrete can accept concrete blocks and bricks, they have more information online: <https://consumersconcrete.com/>

Can I wait until crews are headed toward my street to bring items I need removed to the curb?:

- It is very important that you bring items you need removed to your curb either the Saturday or Sunday before curbside pickup begins. Any item will not on your curb by Sunday will not be removed.

Will you release a schedule of where crews will be throughout pickup?:

- No, we cannot fully predict where crews will be on each day. Crews will work through the community until they've been through every street.

Nicole Beauchamp, Township Clerk

[\(269\) 381-2360 ext. 111](tel:(269)381-2360)

clerk@comstockmi.gov



The February 27th Presidential Primary is just around the corner. Please make note of the important deadlines below:

- Monday, February 12th - Last day to register to vote by mail or online (must be done in Clerk's office after this date)
- Friday, February 16th - Last day to request to spoil a ballot for absentee voters.
- Saturday, February 17th - Early voting begins.
- Friday, February 23rd - Last day to cure a signature discrepancy on an absent voter application.
- Sunday, February 25th - Last day of early voting.
- Monday, February 26th - Last day to apply for an absentee ballot in person at the Clerk's office until 4pm
- Tuesday - February 27th - Election Day!
- Friday, March 1st - Last day for voter to cure their signature on an Absent Voter ballot envelope.

If you're on the Permanent Ballot List and haven't returned your Ballot Selection Form, please do so ASAP to ensure you receive a ballot for the February 27th Presidential Primary. Please see page 8 for more information on the ways you can vote this election.

Treasurer Clyde "Bub" Sherwood

[\(269\) 381-2360 ext. 112](tel:(269)381-2360)

treasurer@comstockmi.gov



Winter property tax season is wrapping up. Please note, we do not send reminder bills for unpaid taxes. It is highly recommended that all taxpayers take a moment to verify that both seasons have been fully paid. This is particularly important if your summer payment was received after September 14, as there may be interest charges owing.

Property tax payments can be made by mail; in-person at the Township office; by using our drop box located at the east end of the parking lot; or online at www.comstockmi.gov. We accept cash, check, money order, electronic check (\$3 fee), and major credit cards (3% fee). When paying online, we also accept PayPal, Venmo, Google Pay, and Apple Pay (3% fee for each). To avoid penalty, payment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2024. Postmarks will be accepted if payment is received by February 21. On March 1, all unpaid property taxes will be turned over to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer as delinquent. The Township is not responsible for lost mail or mail delays.

Curious about where your tax dollars go? Head to www.comstockmi.gov and navigate to the Treasurer's page. There you will find summer and winter property tax information sheets that detail when each millage was created, when it expires, and what it's used for.

Dates and Announcements

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Announcements



2024 Spring Curbside Pickup begins on Monday April 29. Please bring everything you want removed to curb on either Saturday, April 27, or Sunday, April 28. Please take time to review our policies and procedures before deciding what to bring to your curb.

- Clean-up is for residents who live within Comstock Township's limits only.
- We hope pickup will be completed within 2 weeks, but pickup will go until crews have reached each street once.
- Crews WILL NOT return to areas for items placed after specified dates listed.

We hope you take advantage of Spring Curbside Pickup. Please contact the Township Hall with any questions.

Important Dates

The Township Board

is meeting on Monday, February 5th at 6:00 PM.

The Planning Commission

is meeting on Thursday, February 8th, and February 22nd at 7:00 PM.

The Parks and Recreation Board

is meeting on Monday, February 12th at 6:00 PM.

The Downtown Development Authority

is meeting on Wednesday, January 28th at 5:30 PM

The Township Office will be closed

The office will be closed Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents Day.

Parks and Rec News

Summer Adult Softball

Men's & Coed league available

\$585 per team

Deadline to register and pay is April 11th.

Managers meeting at 6pm on April 17th.

Season begins April 22nd.

Games are played at Wenke Softball Complex at River Oaks

To register: <https://comstockmi.gov/parks-recreation/softball/>

Pavilion Rentals

Memorial Day- Labor Day

Rentals available at:

- Merrill Park- \$50 per pavilion or \$90 for both (all day rental)
- Robert Morris Park- \$50 for 4.5 hours, \$100 (all day)

To request a reservation: <https://comstockmi.gov/parks-recreation/>

Community Garden

12 plots available (2 raised beds)

Plots are 4ft x 12 ft

\$10 each

To register: <https://comstockmi.gov/community-garden/>

2024 Robert Morris Park Passes

are available for purchase at the Township Office located at 5858 King Hwy. Kalamazoo. Passes cost \$25, or \$10 for seniors (60+). Day passes can be purchased at Robert Morris Park for \$5.

Robert Morris Park is open year round for you to enjoy.

The park features:

1. Swimming Beach
2. Pavilion Rentals
3. Shore Line Fishing
4. 18-Hole Disc Golf
5. Playgrounds and Swings



Comstock Center News

Clear Sidewalks are Safe Sidewalks

It was treacherous walking during and after the big snowstorm in early January. As a courtesy to our downtown business customers, visitors and residents who use the sidewalks this winter, please help keep the sidewalks and crosswalks clear in front of your property of deep snow and avoid piling it on the sidewalks.

Business Opportunities in Comstock Center

You may have heard that Comerica Bank (5937 King Hwy.) is closing in May. CBRE will be the listing agent and a press release will be forthcoming giving details. The former Comstock Beer Store (6086 E. Michigan Ave.) is now listed for sale by Berkshire-Hathaway. These are two great business opportunities for retail or restaurant investors. Both have great visibility and usable floor space. The Comstock Center DDA offers a Façade Improvement Program that could assist a new purchaser with storefront and signage repairs. For further information contact Steve Deisler at 269-381-2360.



[269-381-2360](tel:269-381-2360)



comstockmi.gov/downtown-development-authority/

Comstock Township Library

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Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Library Contact

269-345-0136

Info@comstocklibrary.org

www.comstocklibrary.org

Charcuterie with Laurel

Wednesday, February 7 @ 6pm

Join Laurel Day, AKA the Do Something Lady, as she walks you through putting together the perfect Charcuterie board for Valentine's Day. She will also feature samples from local vendors. Space is limited, so register as soon as you can for this event!

Adult Book Club

Wednesday, February 14 @ 5:30pm

Please join us as we welcome Comstock author Bonnie Jo Campbell and her latest novel, *The Waters*. The event will include a reading and Q&A. Light refreshments will be served.

State Representative Matt Hall Listening Hour

Wednesday, February 21 from 12-1pm

Constituents of the 42nd State House District are invited to meet with staff members from the office of State Representative Matt Hall. All constituents are invited to come discuss any issues of concern or to ask questions.

Family Youth Craft

Saturday, February 17 @ 11am or 1pm

We will be making Valentine's Day Boxes, which many kids use in schools to collect their Valentine's Day cards in, but there are many other uses, such as decor as well. You can also choose to make a generic keepsake box instead. We will provide a variety of supplies and ideas. This is a free program intended primarily for young patrons. Each child needs to be registered.

Adult Book Club

Thursday, February 29 @ 5:30pm

Please join us for a discussion of *Not Free, Not For All: Public Libraries in the Age of Jim Crow* by Cheryl Knott. The book explores segregation of public libraries during the Jim Crow South, showing how African Americans were excluded from and pursued public library services. Snacks and drinks will be served. Please register to attend.



Please register for these free events by calling the library at [269-345-0136](tel:269-345-0136) or by visiting the Events page on the library's website www.comstocklibrary.org



Comstock Fire and Rescue

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Free Smoke and CO Alarms for Comstock Residents

We are excited to announce that Comstock Fire & Rescue was awarded the Fire Prevention & Safety (FPS) Grant for the Fiscal Year 2021 for \$36,609.52 in Federal funding from the Department of Homeland Security with a 5% department match.

This award will allow us to provide and install one thousand (1,000) Smoke Alarms with tamper-proof 10-year lithium batteries and two hundred (200) Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms each year for two years for Comstock Township residents that are in need. We also have Smoke Alarms with safety lights for those with hearing impairments.

The Fire Prevention and Safety Grant funding award allows fire departments to continue developing and implementing fire prevention and safety programs. The Fire Prevention and Safety Grant aims to provide tools and resources to help reduce fire-related losses and support firefighter safety. Ultimately, this grant aims to improve the quality of life in communities affected by fire by making them safer and more secure.

If you need Smoke Alarms or Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors, please get in touch with Fire Marshal Mike Kessler at 269-345-9244 or email @ mkessler@comstockmi.gov. You can also scan the QR code below or click on the link "Smoke Alarm Request Form" to complete the "Request Install of Smoke Alarms or Carbon Monoxide Detectors" form.



[Smoke Alarm Request Forms](#)



★ ★ ★

VOTE

★

FEBRUARY 27TH

★ THREE WAYS TO VOTE ★

ABSENTEE

- Complete a Ballot Selection Form if you're on the Permanent Ballot List
- Complete an application and select a ballot type
- Mail or place in dropbox located at Township Hall

EARLY VOTING

- Vote at ANY of the following early voting locations between 9:00am-5:00pm 9 days early between February 17th -February 25th

Kalamazoo Expo Center
2900 Lake St

Portage Parks &
Recreation Dept
320 Library Lane

Fetzer Center @ WMU
2251 Business Court

Douglass Community
Association
1000 Paterson St

ELECTION DAY

- Vote at your polling place between 7:00am-8:00pm on election day



Contact us
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Find us on Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/comstocktwp>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/comstockctwp/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ComstockCTwp>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/comstock-charter-township/>

Meet the author



Thank you very much for reading this edition of the Comstock Connect Newsletter. We look forward to keeping you up-to-date on all the latest happenings in our community.

Have a story to tell? Get in touch with our Communications Development Coordinator and he can help!

Matt Miller

Communications Development Coordinator

(269) 381-2360 ext. 120

mmiller@comstockmi.gov